



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,064	10/30/2001	Andreas Arlt	IN-12097	5772

7590 03/17/2005  
BASF Corporation  
Patent Department  
1609 Biddle Avenue  
Wyandotte, MI 48192

EXAMINER	
COONEY, JOHN M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1711	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

LD

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/018,064

Applicant(s)

ARLT ET AL.

Examiner

John m Cooney

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of "acrylic acid" in the reply filed on 12-23-04 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that undue burden is not present for examining the related amine trap compounds. This is not found persuasive because each compound would need to be searched individually for their presence not just their function, and undue burden is maintained to be present.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

**General Comments**

An ordinary practitioner in the art would understand that the term "comprising" in claim 6 means "including", hence, the term "a polyurethane foam", alone, without further definition, as, for example, set forth in applicants' own claim 1, is sufficient definition of at least the minimum elements required to make a polyurethane foam in its broadest sense with the defined reaction products following the term "comprising" being components further included within the polyurethane foam.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

When materials recited in a claim are so related as to constitute a proper Markush group, they may be recited in the conventional manner (selected from the

Art Unit: 1711

group "consisting of" A, B, and C) or alternatively (selected from A, B, or C). See M.P.E.P. 706.03(y). Claims 1 and 6 recite "and" in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to last line, respectively, and in their last lines. The claims set forth improper Markush language and appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bodnar et al.(5,143,945).

Bodnar et al. disclose the preparation of polyurethane foams made in the presence of acrylic acid which read on the processes and products of applicants' claims (see column 4 line 9, as well as, the entire document). The number of species doesn't derogate from the teaching effect of the instant disclosure as the indicated species are recited as all workable for their functional group. Additionally, as conceded by applicants' own specification, amine group containing compounds are groups which are inherently formed through natural weathering and aging of foamed polyurethane products resulting from the cleavage of urethane groups. Accordingly, the remaining acrylic acid residing in the structure of the polyurethane products of Bodnar et al. would inherently react with the formed amines resulting from natural weathering and aging of

the foamed products so as to form the products defined by claim 6. Thus, claim 6 is not seen to be distinguished from the teachings of Bodnar et al.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1 and 4-6 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of copending Application No. 10/843,016. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of 10/843,016 disclose preparations of polyurethane foams prepared in the presence of the compounds of group (vi) which overlap closely with the selections of species claimed by applicants. The variations and selections within the recited selections of the claims of 10/843,016 would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in order to arrive at the products and processes of applicants' claims with the expectation of success. Additionally, looking to pages 18 and 19 for defining supporting disclosure reveals

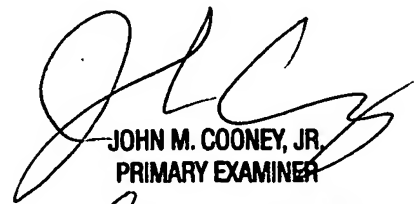
species of the instant claims to be particularly preferred members from the larger group (vi) of the copending claims of 10/843,016. Additionally, the reaction of the materials of group (vi) with the amines formed upon cleavage of the urethane groups of the foamed product which contains them is a naturally occurring secondary reaction which occurs upon the breakdown of these products through aging and weathering and does not rise to the level of a distinguishing limitation in claim 6 of the instant application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Cooney whose telephone number is 571-272-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck, can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
JOHN M. COONEY, JR.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
Group 1700